

SHORTER NOTES

AN INTERESTING NEW STATION FOR *Geranium sibiricum*.—The Siberian crane's bill, *Geranium sibiricum* L., has until recently been established only on Manhattan Island, New York. According to the latest edition of Britton and Brown's "Illustrated Flora of the Northern States and Canada," it has been reported as occurring abundantly along roadsides in the northern part of New York City, no other stations being reported for this species of geranium.

During the past five years, the writer has noticed this pretty little plant becoming firmly established on the campus and ground of the Pennsylvania State College and in the waste places of the town, until it has become one of the commonest plants in the immediate vicinity. Specimens have been sent to Dr. N. L. Britton, who has verified the identification. Just how the plant was introduced into State College is unknown to the writer.

Geranium sibiricum is adventive from Asia.

ALBERT A. HANSEN.

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE COLLEGE

REVIEWS

Trelease on *Phoradendron**

The monograph of the genus *Phoradendron* by Professor Trelease should catch the interest not merely of professional botanists but of amateurs in botany as well for several noteworthy reasons. In the first place the author has long been identified with the development of American botany and especially with the monographing of certain of the more unique American plant groups so that we have come to look with expectancy for his monographs. Then, too, the group here monographed in part—the mistletoes—has a rather unusual interest

* Trelease, W. The genus *Phoradendron*. Pp. 1-224 + plates 1-245 and a map. Published by the University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill. 1916. Price \$2.50, unbound \$2.00.

both because of its biological relations and of its traditional status. Again, as a product of press work this volume is an impressive one, the more so because it bears the stamp of the University of Illinois as publisher and thus serves to emphasize the state university in its more recently assumed rôle of promoting research and of publishing the results of research. The greater bulk of the volume is comprised in an exposition of photo-illustrations which deserves special comment and commendation. There are 245 plates including a full-size illustration of characteristic portions of each species and 237 or nine-tenths of all the forms recognized are here illustrated for the first time. "It has been my aim (quoting Professor Trelease) to picture the more essential features of every species without alteration of size, by aid of the camera and if possible from type specimens." Manifestly such a thoroughgoing enterprise necessitated the visiting of all the major herbaria of America and Europe and a very generous attitude toward the use of specimens for these photo-illustrations. "That every species has been figured . . . may be my excuse for adding that words are lacking to express adequately my gratitude to the many botanists of Europe and North America who have opened their collections to me without restrictions, and in some cases have allowed type material to follow me across the Atlantic or have replaced photographs which were unsatisfactory in the first instance."

With regard now to the species and varieties of *Phoradendron* segregated by the author it will no doubt appear to many botanists that the multiplication of forms has gone beyond the point which any one not a specialist in the group can follow. Especially will this be the case if it finds one at the beginning point of contact with the genus where "all mistletoes look alike." The present reviewer, for example, while not possessing the taxonomist's powers of discernment, still has had a fairly extended field contact with a limited aspect of the genus (on the boundary between southern and southwestern territory), would scarcely have anticipated the possibility of segregating (under the section *flavescentes*) as many as twenty-three species and varieties out of the old *Phoradendron flavescens*. Nevertheless, every man who

has come into intimate contact with the group *flavescens*, especially in the field, will have felt the need of a segregation of forms on some consistent basis and no doubt this will have been the experience of botanists in other geographic regions occupied by *Phoradendron*.

Now if we had a greater fund of knowledge about American Loranthaceae based on investigations in the morphology, physiology and ecology of the group, particularly if we had data based on continued studies and cultural experiments in the field, no doubt structural and growth-habit characters would suffice alone for a basis of segregation of forms. Professor Trelease has pointed out the shortcomings of dried herbarium specimens in furnishing such a reliable basis. In the absence of the fuller measure of such knowledge as that just specified, it is possible to bring to the support of this knowledge the facts of geographical distribution. This the author has done and one is impressed by the fact that the taxonomic scheme of *Phoradendron* offered by Professor Trelease is virtually a projection of the genus upon the geographic regions occupied by it. To be sure the number of geographic regions indicated (twenty-two) is only two fifths of the number of species, groups or sections defined (fifty-five) so that of course structural differences have been given due weight, nor must one infer that the species of any group are wholly confined to a single geographic region. But the mere mention of Sonoran region, Andean region, Caribbean region, etc., carries the presumption of forms of *Phoradendron* characteristic of or even peculiar to each.

This reviewer is led to remark upon the significant influence phytogeographic studies are having and are destined still more to exert upon taxonomic revisions of groups. The latter studies have of course aided in the definition of geographical provinces, regions, etc., but with even our present knowledge of the values of the geographic factors one may have in advance, in taking up a group such as the mistletoes, a certain degree of expectation as to what the segregation will be. And this invites also the further comment that the character of the monograph is being changed by the advancing point of view given of course by the

advance of botanical thought generally but especially by the stimulus of the phytogeographic point of view which seeks not merely to correlate the facts of genetic relation with geographic distribution, but to project the whole group history against the background of its "geographic experience," as one may say. Thus Professor Trelease's discussion of geographic distributions and the light they throw upon the taxonomic status as he conceives it is of keen interest and one could only wish that he had already had time to push the matter farther not merely in the geographic-genetic analysis of *Phoradendron* but of all the New World Loranthaceae. For the matter of that, do not present circumstances indicate that American botanists must extend their geographic and taxonomic studies to world regions and groups, and why therefore should we not anticipate ultimately a monograph entitled "*Trelease on the Loranthaceae*"?

W. L. BRAY

NEWS ITEMS

At the annual meeting of the club held on January 9, the following officers were elected for the new year. *President*, H. M. Richards; *Vice-Presidents*, J. H. Barnhart and C. S. Gager, *Secretary-Treasurer*, B. O. Dodge; *Editor*, A. W. Evans; *Associate Editors*, Jean Broadhurst, J. A. Harris, M. A. Howe, M. Levine, A. B. Stout, W. Marquette, and N. Taylor. The delegate to the council of the New York Academy of Sciences is M. A. Howe.

At the convocation week meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Ellsworth Huntington was elected president, J. W. Harshberger, vice-president and Forrest Shreve was reelected secretary-treasurer.

Dr. F. C. Newcombe was elected president and editor-in-chief, Dr. E. W. Olive vice-president, and Dr. E. W. Sinnott treasurer, of the Botanical Society of America at its recent meeting.